

NC WARN & Durham Community Land Trustees

Media Advisory

For FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

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Ribbon-Cutting for Solar Power Installation on Durham Affordable Housing

Durham, NC – NC WARN, the climate justice nonprofit in Durham that has been in the news lately over its faceoff with Duke Energy for providing cut-rate solar power to a church in Greensboro, will join with Durham Community Land Trustees (DCLT) Friday for a ribbon-cutting on another solar project in Durham.

When: Friday, November 6, 10am

Where: 811 Carroll Street, Durham

What: Speeches, photo ops, ceremonial cutting of ribbon and Duke Energy bills

The 11.55-kilowatt solar system was installed on a quadruplex of rental units owned by DCLT, a nonprofit that provides permanently affordable housing to low- and moderate-income people.

Half of the \$42,000 cost came from NC WARN's Sharing Solar fund, which is intended to help low- and fixed-income residents benefit from solar energy. The fund was developed during NC WARN's Solarize campaigns, which have helped 170 homes and businesses go solar in Durham, Chatham, Western Wake and the Triad over the past two years. A small percentage of each Solarize contract is devoted to sharing solar with low-income families.

The other half of the cost was donated by Durham residents, businesses and others who want to see increased use of solar power.

Unlike the Greensboro project, this one is uncontroversial because the solar system is owned by DCLT, which also pays the Duke Energy electric bill for the properties.

The legislature's failure to enact the Republican-sponsored "Energy Freedom Act" this session means that North Carolina remains one of only 4 states that prohibit the kind of third-party, no-money-down solar deal that could make solar easily affordable for DCLT and most other property owners in the state, regardless of income.

Selina Mack, Executive Director of DCLT, will emcee the ribbon-cutting. Mack says: *"We expect the solar systems to save our four tenants \$1,700 a year. We are grateful to NC WARN and our Durham neighbors for sharing the benefits of solar with those who could otherwise not afford to participate and would have to continue paying ever-increasing amounts for their electricity."*

Other speakers will include: Connie Leeper, NC WARN Organizing Director; Bobi Gallagher of RePowering Durham, who played a pivotal role in the fundraising; and Maryann Crea of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, which raised nearly \$1,000 for the project in a single "Love Offering."

The DCLT system was installed by Yes! Solar Solutions of Cary, which has participated in all of NC WARN's Solarize campaigns.

NC WARN plans to continue using its Sharing Solar fund to extend the benefits of solar energy to low- and fixed-income families around the state, while also working to convince the state to allow the kind of third-party solar leasing and sales that make solar so affordable in other states.

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See more:

www.solarize-nc.org/sharing-solar/

www.dclt.org

www.ncwarn.org/solarfreedom/

Now in its 28th year, NC WARN's mission urgency is to induce Charlotte-based Duke Energy – now the world's largest corporate utility – to make a strong shift to clean, affordable energy in order to help avert climate tipping points and ongoing rate hikes.